GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2058
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Programme on Drinking Water
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to have a mission-mode programme on drinking water in place and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the problem of non-availability of clean drinking water in water scarce places in the country;
(c) whether the Government plans to collect standardized data on drinking water availability;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the details of the schemes in place for the purpose of promoting the importance of safe drinking water as a public health concern and not just as a basic necessity and for spreading awareness about the kind of diseases that arise out of non-availability of potable water?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. For improving the coverage of clean drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the states by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Further, in order to have a focused approach, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched a National Water Quality Sub-Mission focussed funding ring fenced only to arsenic and fluoride rural population on 50 : 50 cost sharing basis between centre and state and 90:10 for North-Eastern & Himalayan States preferably through surface water based piped water supply schemes. Under this program, Rs. 814.14 Crore have been released to 15 States to complete ongoing schemes. Under this Sub-Mission, the goal is to provide safe drinking water to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations from sustainable water sources. Ministry has advised all States to complete these on-going schemes by December, 2018.
(b) Currently as per the information furnished by the State in the web portal of the Ministry, 23.44 % of total rural population is being provided less than the norm of 40 litres per capita per day and 5.65 % of rural population do not have access to safe drinking water. Thus about 29.09 % of rural population is facing scarcity of drinking water. As a long term solution, this Ministry has directed the States to cover the rural households with Piped Water Supply with sustainable safe source. This Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for providing drinking water supply in rural areas of the country for the period 2011-2022. As per this, by 2022, the goal is to cover at least 90% of rural households are provided with piped water supply.To achieve this, the States have been advised to pool more funds from State plan in view of the enhanced devolution of funds under the 14th Finance Commission and to arrange external assistance or loan from lending institution over and above the funding from the Ministry under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). In arsenic & fluoride affected habitations, the Ministry has advised the States to provide 8 to 10 litres per capita per day by installing community water purification plants. In 2017-18, there is an allocation of Rs.6050 Crores under NRDWP and till 17.07.2017, an amount of Rs. 1170.44 Crores has already been released to State Governments.
(c)& (d)The Ministry, under NRDWP, deals with provision of drinking water to the rural population of the country only. As per the current norms/standards the basic minimum requirement of potable drinking water is 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd). Depending upon the availability of water & financial resources, the states may provide higher service level.The vision for rural domestic water supply in the Strategic Plan of the Ministry is to cover all rural households with safe piped drinking water supply with availability of 70 lpcd. However, as an interim measure the norm of 55 lpcd has been fixed and out of this, 3 lpcd is for drinking purpose whereas 10 lpcd is for ablution / toilets (sanitation purposes).
The norms have been fixed taking into consideration the minimum drinking water requirement and the consumer as a unit. The said usage norms are indicative and inter se usages may vary depending on the consumer preferences and the demand of the situation.
(e)Ministry has advised the State Governments to utilize the 5% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) support funds for promoting importance of safe drinking water, spreading awareness of consuming safe water and kind of diseases that arise out of consuming unsafe water.